



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

August 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dorothea Dix Employees

FROM: Secretary Cansler 

RE: Cost Reduction Measures and Dorothea Dix Hospital

As you know, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has been confronted with major budget reductions over the last two years. For the current fiscal year, no funds were appropriated by the General Assembly to operate Dorothea Dix Hospital, and we have been forced to make some very difficult decisions to address this shortfall.

In order to reduce unfunded hospital expenditures, we have determined to relocate patient services to Central Regional and Cherry Hospitals. You have already been informed that some adult long-term beds, the Forensic Maximum Unit, the Forensic Medium Unit, and the Pre-Trial Evaluation Unit will be moved to CRH as previously planned. In addition, we will relocate the 60 adult admission beds and the Clinical Research Unit to CRH, preserving current capacities in both services at their new location in Butner. Cherry Hospital will increase their current census by thirty (30) adult long term beds and adult long term patients at Dix who are not transferred to CRH will be transferred to Cherry Hospital.

These changes, which will occur during the first half of this fiscal year, will leave the Forensic Minimum Unit and Child Outpatient Clinic on campus under the direction of CRH.

Dix positions assigned to the services that are moved will relocate to CRH with the patients, and we are hopeful that staff in these positions will choose to transfer with the positions. While most staff at Dix can be accommodated at CRH, there are some manager and one of a kind positions that will not be relocated to CRH. For those employees who cannot be accommodated at CRH or choose not to relocate with their positions, DHHS will assist with placements at other facilities or agencies in DHHS, where possible. DSOHF Director Luckey Welsh is instructing nearby state operated facilities to prioritize hiring of Dix staff who are not relocating to CRH. Further details about position relocations will be provided in a communication to Dix employees in the next several days.

Dorothea Dix Hospital has a proud and honored history of service to citizens of North Carolina with mental illness dating to 1856. In recent years, the staff have provided outstanding care and treatment to the residents of south central North Carolina in a very uncertain time. I thank each and every one of you for your wonderful contributions to mental health care, and I urge you to continue your selfless service to others through the services remaining on the Dix campus, the services relocating to CRH, or other facilities in the DHHS system of care.

